

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please examine claims 1-16 found on the Amended Sheets received by the International Bureau on 07 May 2004.

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) A device for affixing a kick-enhancing covering to a ski sole, characterised by a fixing plate recessed in, secured or securable to the ski sole and which is designed at a rear portion, optionally under spring action, to secure a forward portion of a band or strip equipped with a skin or ski wax, or that is waxless, between said rear portion and a portion of the ski sole.

2. (original) A device as disclosed in claim 1, characterised in that the fixing plate is securable to the ski by means of an eccentric locking mechanism, or is fastenable to the ski with at least one screw, a screw-nut connection, rivet arrangement or adhesive.

3. (currently amended) A device as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the outward-facing, snow-contacting side of the fixing plate is provided with a glider covering.

4. (original) A device as disclosed in claim 1, characterised in that said portion of the ski sole is a recessed portion that is designed to receive a retaining piece with which the band or strip is provided at its forward portion.

5. (original) A device for affixing to a ski a band or strip equipped with a kick-enhancing covering, characterised by an engagement block mountable in the ski and which has at least one engaging hole, wherein said engaging hole is designed, on the insertion of an engaging lug on a retaining piece into such a hole, to receive and form retaining

engagement with the engaging lug, the retaining piece being fastened to a forward portion of the band or strip.

6. (original) A device as disclosed in claim 5, characterised in that said engaging hole is so dimensioned that when the engagement block is mounted in the ski, it extends through the ski from its underside to its upper side.

7. (currently amended) A device as disclosed in claim 5 or 6, characterised in that the engagement block has two engaging holes intended for engagement with respective engaging lugs on the retaining piece.

8. (currently amended) A device as disclosed in claim 6 or 7, characterised in that said engaging hole and engaging lug each have at least one curved portion.

9. (original) A device as disclosed in claim 8, characterised in that when the engagement block is mounted on the ski, the said curved portion of said engaging hole will extend in a curve upwards from the underside of the ski and in the forward direction of the ski.

10. (currently amended) A device as disclosed in ~~one or more of claims 5-9~~ claim 5, characterised in that the engagement block has a housing portion or portions which form said hole or holes, said housing portion or portions, when the engagement block is mounted in the ski, extending from the upper side of the ski through the ski to its underside.

11. (currently amended) A kick-enhancing band or strip for mounting on a ski, and wherein the band or strip on one flat side thereof is designed to be attached to a part of the ski sole by means of an adhesive, and which on the opposite flat side is equipped with a skin, a no-wax covering or a ski wax covering, wherein the band or strip at one end is designed to cooperate with a fixing device as disclosed in ~~one or more of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, characterised in that the band or

strip at its forward end is provided with a retaining piece designed for said cooperation with the fixing device, and wherein the fixing device consists a fixing plate on the underside of the ski, fixing holes through the ski, or an engagement block in the ski.

12. (original) A band or strip as disclosed in claim 11, characterised in that the retaining piece is designed to wholly or partly be placed in a recessed portion of the underside of the ski and where its is held in place by the fixing plate or engagement block.

13. (original) A band or strip as disclosed in claim 11, characterised in that the retaining piece is made having at least one bolt designed for engagement with said fixing hole, wherein the bolt has means for locking the retaining piece to the ski, for example by a screw/bolt connection.

14. (currently amended) A fitting for use with a fixing device as disclosed in ~~one or more of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterised in that the fitting ~~consists of~~ comprises a retaining piece having a means designed for engagement with an end portion of a band or strip which has a kick-enhancing covering, for example, a skin, a no-wax covering or a ski wax covering; and that the retaining piece has at least one bolt designed for insertion into a fixing hole in a ski; and that the bolt has an end portion designed for locking the retaining piece to the ski.

15. (currently amended) A fitting for use with a fixing device as disclosed in ~~one or more of claims 5-10~~ claim 5, characterised in that the fitting ~~consists of~~ comprises a retaining piece having a means designed for engagement with an end portion of a band or strip which has a kick-enhancing covering, for example, a skin, a no-wax covering or a ski wax covering; and that the retaining piece has two curved engaging

lugs designed for insertion into and engagement with an engagement block mountable in a ski.

16. (currently amended) A fitting as disclosed in claim 14 or 15, characterised in that said means ~~consists of~~ comprises at least two bendable fixing hooks arranged at the rear edge of the retaining piece, designed to penetrate through the band or strip.